

REMARKS

OF

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

GOLDEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

GOLDEN VALLEY, MINNESOTA

OCTOBER 28, 1970

Let me talk politics for a few minutes with the students here today.

Student power in politics is nothing new. When I ran for Mayor of Minneapolis, the backbone of my support came from people of college age and younger.

They called us Humphrey's diaper brigade.

And we went on to build a progressive Liberal Party in Minnesota.

Today, young people are playing an active role in my campaign for the Senate. Doing research, preparing briefing materials, manning telephones, answering letters --- in other words, in all aspects of the campaign.

I think it's time we brought students directly into our national political life --- not just in a Presidential year, or a Senatorial campaign year, but in every year. And not just stuffing envelopes or running mimeograph machines in campaigns, but helping to shape policy.

I hope after this campaign is over we'll keep on hearing from you. Hearing positive proposals to meet the questions posed by your criticisms of the way our world goes. Let me tell you I can help.

There already exists a limited program of White House and Congressional fellowships.

When I am your Senator from Minnesota, I will propose legislation to bring about a greatly expanded program of practical political education and participation. I shall propose that students be given national merit fellowships in government --- that they be subsidized and given academic credit while working at politics and government.

I want you to learn how the Senate works. How the House of Representatives works. How the State Department and the Federal

Power Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Communications Commission and the other executive agencies work.

This program could and should be expanded to involve State and local governments. It could and should have the cooperation of the colleges and universities, the national and state committees of both political parties, and the large foundations.

I want you to learn how day-to-day politics works, too, starting in the precincts and the wards, moving on up to City Hall and the County Courthouses and the State House.

I want you to work with a Governor, a Mayor, a Ward Leader.

I want you to learn statecraft --- but I want you to learn the nitty-gritty, too --- the plodding, day-by-day grinding away that spells political action and public policy.

I want to keep our two-party system alive and responsive. Not sterile and removed from the realities of our society.

I want to avoid a situation where young, progressive people by-pass the Democratic processes and lose themselves in a series of frustrating "movements".

If our parties are truly responsible, "movements" will be unnecessary.

I want a Party where people like you will be the chairmen, the precinct workers, the candidates --- a party built on issues and moral concern.

That's the kind of party I want to build.

Too many people say: "Politics is dirty --- I don't want any part of it."

Let me tell you something: Your political system is just as dirty and just as clean, just as good and just as bad, as we make it.

000001

If you want to make it better, get into it.

Because today, more than ever before, your country needs you. It needs your new ideas and your vigor, your energy and your heart. You have it within your power to build a brave new world --- if you only will work at it.

And I will help you have that chance.

#



Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org